

Application No.: 10/644,947

Amendment and RCE dated: November 30, 2006

Reply to Final Office Action dated: April 10, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 were previously cancelled.

Claims 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollowell (U.S. Patent No. 6,071,056) in view of Kunii et al., hereinafter (“Kunii”), (U.S. App. No. 2001/0023839 or U.S. Patent No. 7,059,476). Claims 23-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunii, as noted above, in view of Hollowell. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollowell in view of Kunii, and further in view of Wanesky (U.S. Patent No. 3,263,841).

Applicants agree with the Office Action’s indication Hollowell does not disclose inverting an exchange with respect to a packing tray. See Office Action dated 12/21/2006, paragraph 3.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit Hollowell does not teach, suggest or describe at least “[a] method, comprising: ... rotating the packing tray and the exchange tray together to move the component from the packing tray to the exchange tray...” (e.g., as described in amended claim 23).

The Office Action alleges Hollowell teaches the limitations, citing Figure 6, and column 2, lines 61-67. See id. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Hollowell discloses a tray used during the processing and handling of HGAs having a set of locating and support features on both its top and bottom surfaces. See Abstract. Column 2, lines 61-67 of Hollowell state:

In operation, an HGA 13 is placed in a position on tray 11. The HGA may be placed on either top 15 or bottom 17, but only one side can be populated at any time. During use, either top 15 or bottom 17 can hold up to thirty HGAs 13. When another tray 11 is nested

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on top of the populated tray 11, the trays can be flipped over or inverted 180 degrees to reorient the HGAs 13 without having to manipulate them.

The cited section describes a HGA that may be placed on either a top or bottom tray. It further describes that when a tray is nested on top of a tray occupied by an HGA, they both may be flipped over or inverted to reorient the HGAs. It does not address whether the component may be moved from the populated tray to the empty tray (as described in, for example, claim 23); therefore the current rejection is lacking.

Applicants further submit Hollowell teaches against the relevant limitation. Column 2, lines 43-47 state: “[t]hus, when an HGA 13 is located on bottom 17, its body 25 makes contact with platform 41 and shelf 47, and its forward portion 31 makes contact with notch 51. *Notches 51, tabs 43 and block 45 substantially restrict HGAs 13 to vertical movement.*” (*emphasis added*) Therefore, Hollowell makes it clear notch 51 is intended to restrict the vertical movement of an HGA, thereby eliminating the ability of the HGA to move from one tray to the other. Applicants submit the Hollowell reference fails to describe at least rotating a packing tray and a exchange tray together to move a component from the packing tray to the exchange tray (e.g., as described in claim 23).

Applicants submit Kunii reference fails to make up for the deficiencies of Hollowell. Although Kunii directed to embodiment trays that may be stacked, it does not describe rotating a packing tray and a exchange tray together to move a component from the packing tray to the exchange tray as described in embodiments of the present application.

Wanesky fails to make the deficiencies of Hollowell as well. Wanesky is directed toward methods and an apparatus for removing articles from nests in a work holder. It does not describe

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rotating a packing tray and a exchange tray together to move a component from the packing tray to the exchange tray as described in embodiments of the present application.

Therefore, since each and every limitation is not taught or suggested in the cited references, Applicants submit they are inadequate to support a proper §103(a) rejection of claim 23, and therefore independent claim 23 should be allowed. Claims 24-32 depend from allowable independent claims and therefore are allowable as well.

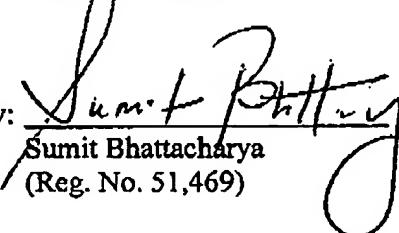
It is believed that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to
Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: March 21, 2007

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